Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of manufacturing a stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ comprising a thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ having two major surfaces, one of the major surfaces bearing a multitude of male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ suitable for engagement with a corresponding female fastening material, and on its other major surface a fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~, said method comprising the steps of

(i) providing the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ having an initial basis weight ~~of between 10 and 400~~ ~~g/m~~^{2},

(ii) passing the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ through a nip formed by two rolls ~~(101), (103)~~, one of them having cavities ~~(120)~~ that are ~~the~~ negatives of a plurality of male fastening elements ~~(14)~~, introducing a molten thermoplastic resin into the cavities ~~(120)~~ in excess of an amount that would fill the cavities ~~(120)~~ which excess forms the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~, allowing the resin to at least partially solidify and stripping of a precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ thus formed comprising the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ and the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ bearing ~~a~~ the ~~plurality~~ multitude of male fastening elements ~~(14),~~ from the ~~cylindrical~~ roll ~~(103)~~ having cavities, ~~(120) whereby~~ wherein the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ has an initial thickness and an initial ~~hook~~ density of male fastening elements, and

(iii) stretching the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ monoaxially or biaxially thereby decreasing the basis weight of the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ and the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ from their respective initial values to provide a stretched mechanical fastening laminate ~~(1)~~ having a basis weight of less than 100 ~~g/m~~^{2} g/m^2.

2. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of manufacturing a stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ comprising a thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ having two major surfaces, one of the major surfaces bearing a multitude of male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ suitable for

engagement with a corresponding female fastening material, and on its other major surface a fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~, said method comprising the steps of

(i) extruding the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ bearing on one major surface a plurality of elongate spaced ribs in a machine direction ~~(MD)~~ with the cross-sectional shape of the ribs essentially corresponding to the cross-sectional shape of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ to be formed, ~~whereby~~ wherein the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ has an initial thickness,

(ii) providing the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ having an initial basis weight ~~of between 10 and 400 g/m²~~,

(iii) extrusion-laminating the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ to the major surface of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ opposite to the major surface bearing the elongate spaced ribs, thus providing a precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~,

(iv) slitting the ribs in a cross-direction ~~(CD)~~ at spaced locations to form discrete portions of the ribs in ~~CD~~ the cross-direction with a ~~width~~ length in the direction of the ribs essentially corresponding to ~~the~~ a desired length of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ to be formed, and stretching the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ monoaxially or biaxially thereby decreasing the basis weight of the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ and the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ from their respective initial values to provide a stretched mechanical fastening laminate ~~(1)~~ having a basis weight of less than 100 g/m² ~~g/m²~~.

3. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~mechanical~~ male fastening elements ~~or the elongate spaced ribs, respectively,~~ are subjected prior to or after stretching to thermal, mechanical or radiation energy.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ comprises one or more nonwoven materials.

6. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web layer ~~(11)~~ is made by airlaying, spunbonding, spunlacing, bonding of melt blown webs ~~and~~ or bonding of carded webs.

7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web layer ~~(11)~~ comprises a plurality of filaments ~~selected from a group~~ comprising at least one of natural fibers, spun yarn fibers, fibers of nylon, polyamides, polyesters or polyolefins, core-sheath bicomponent fibers, or monocomponent fibers ~~or any combination of these~~.

8. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the filaments of the fibrous nonwoven web layer ~~(11)~~ exhibit an average titer from 0.5 to 10 dtex.

9. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the initial density of male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ of the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ is between 10 and 5,000 per cm^2.

10. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the initial thickness of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ of the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ is between 10 and 750 μm.

11. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ of the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ comprises a thermoplastic polymer ~~selected from the group~~ comprising polyesters, polyamides ~~and~~ or polyolefins.

12. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ of the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ comprise a stem projecting from the ~~exposed~~ surface of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~.

13. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein the stems of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ of the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ comprise an enlarged section which is positioned at their end opposite to the surface of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~.

14. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein the enlarged ~~portions~~ sections form hooks, T's, J's or mushroom heads.

15. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 11, wherein precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ is stretched monoaxially in a machine-direction ~~(MD)~~ or a cross-direction ~~(CD)~~ so that ~~the~~ a stretch ratio of the resulting stretched mechanical fastening laminate ~~(1)~~ relative to the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ is between 1.5:1 to 10:1.

16. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ is stretched sequentially or simultaneously biaxially in ~~CD~~ a cross-direction and ~~MD~~ a machine direction so that ~~the~~ a stretch ratio of the resulting stretched mechanical fastening laminate ~~(1)~~ relative to the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ in ~~CD~~ the cross-direction and ~~MD~~ the machine direction is, independently from each other, between 1.1 to 10:1.

17. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the product of the stretch ratio in ~~MD~~ the machine direction times the stretch ratio in ~~CD~~ the cross-direction is between 2:1 and 35:1.

18. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 15, wherein monoaxially stretching ~~in a first direction~~ is obtained by passing the precursor web laminate in the machine direction ~~of stretch~~ over rollers of increasing speed.

19. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ is simultaneously biaxially stretched in a flat film tenter stretching apparatus.

20. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ comprised in the stretched mechanical fastening laminate ~~(1)~~ has a basis weight of from 1 to 30 g/m^{2}g m^2.

21. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ a ratio of the initial basis weight of the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ to the basis weight of the fibrous web layer comprised in the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ is between 3 [[-]]and 40.

22. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein the stretched thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ has a thickness of between 5 [[–]]and 25 μm.

23. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein ~~the~~ a ratio of the initial thickness of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ of the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ to the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ is between 3 [[-]]and 40.

24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein the density of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ is between 1 and 2,500 per cm^2.

25. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein the density of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ is between 2 and 200 per cm^2.

26. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ exhibits a tensile strength in ~~MD~~ the machine direction as measured according to DIN EN ISO 527 of at least 15 N/25mm.

27. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein portions of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ are obtained by cutting it in ~~CD~~the cross-direction.

28-33. (canceled)

34. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous web layer has an initial basis weight of between 10 and 400 g/m^2.